● PRINTER RUSH ●
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

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[RUSH] **MESSAGE:** Continuing data listed on the palm/bib data sheet is missing from the specification (PCT/JP01/03914).

Thank you.

[XRUSH] **RESPONSE:**

INITIALS:

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REV 10/04

Conveyor Apparatus and Commodity Inspecting Equipment Utilizing the Same

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a conveyor apparatus and a commodity inspecting equipment equipped with such conveyor apparatus.

BACKGROUND ART

A commodity inspecting equipment such as a weighing conveyor for, while articles are successively transported by a conveyor apparatus in a production line, measuring the weight thereof includes, for example, a conveyor apparatus of a type in which an endless flat belt or the like is trained as a transport belt between a pair of rollers supported by a frame. One of the roller is a drive roller to which a driving force from a drive source such as a motor for moving the transport belt, and as a belt for transmission of the driving force an endless belt or the like is trained between a pulley, mounted coaxially on the drive roller, and a pulley mounted on a drive shaft of the drive source.

The conveyor apparatus is coupled with a free end side of an elastic element so that it can serve as a load to a load cell as a load detector. A fixed end side of the elastic element is coupled with a fixed member such as a leg member, a fixed frame, a fixed bracket or the like. The load cell is generally accommodated within a housing so that it will not be affected by an external environment such as moisture, dusts and others.

A relation in position between the conveyor apparatus and the housing is such that since a space above the conveyor apparatus is required to be open wide in view of articles to be weighed being placed on the conveyor apparatus and since measurements would result in an error when foreign matter falls onto the conveyor apparatus, the conveyor apparatus is generally disposed immediately above the housing or in side by side fashion relative to the housing. Accordingly, hitherto, the housing has an opening defined on a top surface or a side surface, and a support member for the support of the conveyor apparatus is